

REMARKS

Summary

Rejected Claims 37-43 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice, and new independent Claims 53 and 58 recite features not understood to be disclosed or suggested by the patent to Kato, et al. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the claims

Claims 44-51 and 53-60 are pending. Claims 37-44 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 53-60 have been added. Claims 37, 53, and 58 are independent.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants also respectfully request that this Amendment be entered. This Amendment could not have been presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. Moreover, for the reasons discussed below, Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. At the very least, it is believed to place the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Amendment to substitute specification

Applicants have amended the substitute specification to indicate that the present application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 09/099,032, filed June 18, 1998, as was done in the Application Data Sheet and as is recognized on the official filing receipt.

Formal Rejections

Claims 37-41, 43, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and Claims 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 37-43 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 44-51, and the indication that Claims 38-40, 42, and 43 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, as noted above, Applicants have canceled Claims 38-40, 42, and 43 without prejudice.

Substantive rejection

Claims 37, 41, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Kato, et al.

Response to rejection

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 37, 41, and 52 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

New independent Claims 53 and 58

New independent Claim 53 relates to a toner supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus. The container comprises a container body, a capping member, and an engageable portion. The container body is configured to contain toner. The container body contains an opening in one longitudinal end thereof and is configured and positioned to permit the discharge of the toner. The capping member is configured and positioned to cap the opening. The capping member is provided with an extension that extends toward the inside of the container body. The engageable portion is provided in the container body and is engageable with the extension of the capping member. The engageable portion is provided with an opening engageable with the extension of the capping member for coaxial sliding movement relative to the extension by the image forming apparatus. When the opening in the container body is opened to permit toner discharge therethrough, an engagement between the extension of the capping member and the opening of the engageable portion is maintained. The extension of the capping member and the opening of the engageable portion are slidably movable relative to each other from a state in which the opening of the container body is opened to a state in which the opening in the container body is closed.

The patent to Kato, et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest the capping member and the engageable portion as recited in Claim 53.

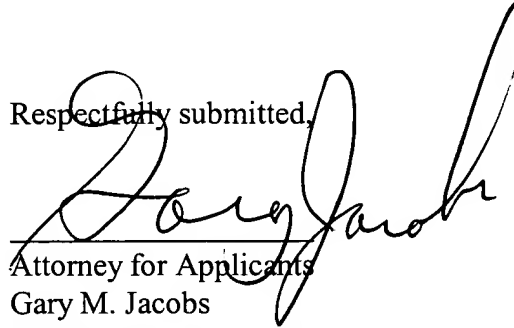
Independent Claim 58 relates to a toner supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus. The container comprises a container body, a capping member, and an engageable portion. The container body is configured to contain toner and contains an opening in one longitudinal end thereof and is configured and positioned to permit the discharge of the toner. The capping member is configured and positioned to cap the opening. The capping member is provided with a bore extending from an inner side thereof and has a closed end. The engageable portion is provided in the container body and is engageable with the capping member. The engageable portion has a shaft portion which is coaxially slidable relative to the bore of the capping member by the image forming apparatus. When the opening in the container body is opened to permit toner discharge therethrough, an engagement between the bore of the capping member and the shaft portion is maintained. The bore of the capping member and the shaft portion of the engageable portion are slidably movable relative to each other from a state in which the opening of the container body is opened to a state in which the opening in the container body is closed.

The patent to Kato, et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest the capping member and the engageable portion as recited in Claim 58.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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